

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments to Claims 3-11 be entered in order to avoid this application incurring a surcharge for the presence of one or more multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Date May 21, 2001

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479

09856369.052101

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], wherein said catalytic layer contains a H₂ producing catalyst component for functioning to produce hydrocarbons, and a NO_x reducing catalyst component for functioning to reduce nitrogen oxides, said H₂ producing catalyst component being disposed on said HC adsorbing layer and including a HC reforming catalyst component functioning to reform hydrocarbons so as to produce hydrogen and a CO reforming catalyst component functioning to make steam reforming of carbon monoxide, said HC reforming catalyst component containing cerium oxide carrying palladium, said CO reforming catalyst component containing zirconium oxide carrying rhodium.

4. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, wherein said catalytic layer further includes an upstream layer formed at an upstream section of said exhaust gas purifying catalyst, said upstream section being located upstream of said HC reforming catalyst component layer and said CO reforming catalyst component layer relative to flow direction of exhaust gas, said upstream layer containing alumina carrying palladium.

5. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 4] Claim 1, wherein said zirconium oxide carrying rhodium contains alkaline earth and has a composition represented by the following formula (A):



where X is an alkaline earth metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, strontium and barium; a and b are ratios of atoms of elements; and c is a number of oxygen atoms required for satisfying valences of X and Zr, in which a is within a range of from 0.01 to 0.5, b is within a range of from 0.5 to 0.99, and a + b = 1.0.

6. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1, wherein a NO_x reducing catalyst component functioning to reduce nitrogen oxides is contained in at least one of said HC adsorbing layer, said HC reforming layer, said CO reforming layer and said upstream layer containing alumina carrying palladium.

7. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 6] Claim 1, wherein a NOx reducing catalyst component functioning to reduce nitrogen oxides is contained in at least one of said HC adsorbing layer, said HC reforming layer, said CO reforming layer and said upstream layer containing alumina carrying palladium, said NOx reducing catalyst component containing at least one selected from the group consisting of palladium, platinum, rhodium, alumina, alkali metal and alkaline earth metal.

8. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1, wherein said zeolite contains H-type β -zeolite having a Si/2Al ratio ranging from 10 to 500.

9. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 8] Claim 1, wherein said zeolite contains H-type β -zeolite and at least one of MFI, Y-type zeolite, USY-type zeolite and mordenite.

10. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1, wherein said zeolite contains at least one selected from the group consisting of palladium, magnesium, calcium, strontium, barium, silver, yttrium, lanthanum, cerium, neodymium, phosphorus, boron and zirconium.

11. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in [any of Claims 1 to 10] Claim 1, wherein a NOx reducing catalyst component functioning to reduce nitrogen oxides is contained in at least one of said HC adsorbing layer, said HC reforming layer, said CO reforming layer and said upstream layer containing alumina carrying palladium, said NOx reducing catalyst component containing at least one selected from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal, said NOx reducing catalyst component containing at least one selected from the group consisting of potassium, cesium, magnesium, calcium and barium.